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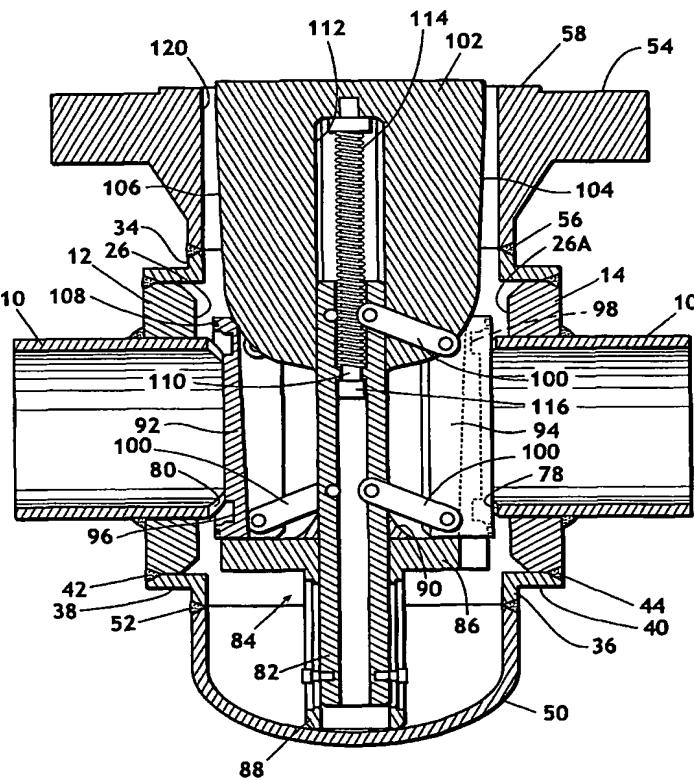
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- (71) Applicant: TDW DELAWARE, INC. [US/US]; 1100 Market Street, Suite 780, Wilmington, DE 19801 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): CALKINS, Charles, Dale [US/US]; 6626 South 76th East Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74133 (US). FREEMAN, Eric, N. [US/US]; 15772 South 81st West Avenue, Sapulpa, OK 74066 (US). GARRISON, Tony, R. [US/US]; 15707 South Braden, Bixby, OK 74008 (US). GOINS, Gary, D. [US/US]; 8701 East 98th Place, Tulsa, OK 74133 (US). MORRISON, Phillip, K. [US/US]; 3824 South Sequoia Avenue, Broken Arrow, OK 74011 (US). PUCKETT, Gregory, L. [US/US]; 2619 South 137th East Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74134 (US). JACOB, Stephen, M. [US/US]; 11008 Highway 961, Clinton, LA 70722 (US). MCDONALD, Bryan, W. [US/US]; 1914 Windy Green, Kingwood, TX 77345 (US). MILLER, Jack, E. [US/US]; 14107 Tiff Trail, Houston, TX 77095 (US).
- (74) Agent: JOHNSON, Paul, H.; Gable & Gotwals, 100 West Fifth Street, 10th Floor, Tulsa, OK 74103 (US).
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(54) Title: APPARATUS, SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR PLUGGING A HIGH TEMPERATURE PIPE



(57) Abstract: A method of plugging a pipeline includes the steps of welding onto the exterior of the pipeline (10) first (12) and second (14) spaced apart collars, each having a sealing face (26,26A) in a plane perpendicular the pipeline (10) axis. A containment housing (34,36) is affixed by welding to the collars (12,14) to fully encompass a section of the pipeline (10) between the collars (12,14). A tapping (60) machine is then removably attached to an open top of the containment housing (34). Using the tapping machine (60) a short length of the pipeline (10) is cut and removed from between the collars (12,14) leaving two open exposed pipe ends (78,80). First and second seal elements (92,94) are positioned between the collars (12,14), each having a forward sealing face. The seal elements (92,94) are forced apart from each other into sealing engagement with the collar sealing faces thereby closing the open, exposed ends (78,80) of the pipe (10).



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- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE,*

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